

Mangus Cabin
Moose
Grand Teton National Park
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-22

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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MANGUS CABIN

Grand Teton National Park, Moose, Wyoming

ADDRESS: Situated north-northwest of Moose, Wyoming
OWNER: National Park Service
OCCUPANT: none
USE: Storage

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This two story log structure, built in 1911, is one of the first homesteaders' cabins in the Jackson Hole country that provided second floor space. It is also believed to be one of the earliest homesteads established on the west side of the Snake River (though Bill Menor's cabin -- WYO-24 -- dates from 1892).

The cabin's unique design featuring a steep pitched roof with very wide overhanging eaves and gables prevented snow and ice from gathering on the roof and piling up against the walls of the building.

When the structure was evaluated in 1942, the only repairs deemed necessary was replacement of the roofing boards that were rotten.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

James H. Mangus, a native of Kansas, first visited the Jackson Hole area in the fall of 1910. He was persuaded by a Mr. Wort (for whom he worked for that first year) to remain and stake a homestead claim. While chopping wood that winter for Mr. Wort he was able to select and cut logs for a new cabin on his own homestead.

The following year, 1911, he built the unique two story log structure that still stands (and is in good condition) on the "old" Elbo Ranch. Today there is a ranch east of the Snake River that bears the name Elbo Ranch.

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Probably the first two story building in the valley, the design served several basic purposes. The wide eaves and steep roof prevented snow and ice from collecting on the roof and piling up against the walls. Also, as Mr. Mangus reported when interviewed in 1942, a stove on the first floor served also to heat the second floor -- a feat not possible in a one story house with two or three rooms. A scuttle in the first floor gave access to a pit about 5' deep and 9' square that he used as a root cellar.

The first record of a claim is Patent #15305 to James H. Manges, dated July 8, 1918. Here the change in spelling and names should be noted. The H.A.B.S. drawings prepared in the summer of 1965 lists the building as the homestead of John Mangus. Somehow the records available were misleading. But also, the Patent record for the claim shows another discrepancy by listing the name of James H. Manges. The 1942 July-August survey, Owned Structures of a Historic Character, Jackson Hole, Wyoming prepared by A. E. Kendrew evaluated the structure and described an interview with Jim Mangus -- his name is listed as shown here, ending in "us".

Mangus stated that the original roof was constructed of a layer of boards with the joints covered with slabs. Later a layer of felt was placed over the boards, then another layer of boards with battened joints was added.

A barn, now gone, was built soon after the cabin and stood to the northeast.

In 1942, Mr. Espenshied, the tenant of the ranch at that time, used the building as a craft shop and wranglers' sleeping quarters. Records indicated that Manges (sic) deeded the land to Chester A. Goss on May 15, 1929; Goss in turn deeded the land to the Snake River Land Company, August 6, 1929; Snake River Land Company to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., November 30, 1942; John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., October 22, 1945; Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. to the United States Government (present owner), December 16, 1949.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL AND SOURCES

Correspondence on the Mangus Cabin with Willard E. Dilley, Chief Naturalist, Grand Teton National Park; May, 1957.
Kendrew, A.E., Report on Owned Structures of a Historic Character, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 1942.
Patent #15305 and succeeding deeds, Teton County Courthouse, Jackson, Wyoming.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This is a two story log building with a steep gabled roof and wide overhanging eaves with horizontal projection up to 5'-2" supported by logs cantilevered horizontally out from the walls. Second floor contained within the gable.

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions - Two story log cabin measuring 17'-3" x 23'-8".

Foundation - Stone.

Wall Construction - Log construction, halved cornering.

Openings - Entrances: First floor entry 3'-0" x 6'-4" on east or front facade. Second floor has a 2'-0" x 5'-3" opening and exterior stairs (now gone) on the rear or west facade.

Windows: 6/6 double hung wood windows. Opening above front door enlarged at a later date -- originally a window.

Roof - Roof pitch approximately $40\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ built of a single layer of boards with the joints covered with slabs. Later building felt covered the boards and another layer of boards with battened joints was added.

Chimney - None remaining.

INTERIOR

Floor Plans - Single room first and second floor, 17'-0" x 22'-0" -- no interior connection remains today. A trap door gave access (now covered) to a root cellar, 5' x 9' x 9'.

Stairway - Evidence points to an external stair (ladder type) only.

Floors - 2 x 6 boards laid over log floor joints -- both floors.

Wall and Ceiling Finish - Exposed logs.

Doors - None are original.

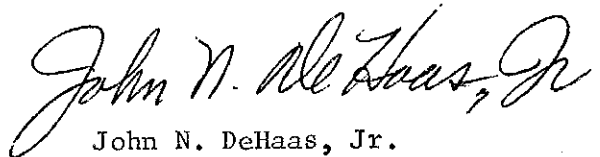
Trim - Squared rough planking.

Heating - Originally a wood stove.

GENERAL SETTING

The building sets about a quarter of a mile back and east from the Park highway that links Moose, the Jenny Lake Area and Moran, Wyoming.

Prepared by,



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